

JANETTE TAYLOR, ET AL.

MEMORIAL

OF

Janette Taylor, et al., representatives of John Paul Jones.

DECEMBER 12, 1836.

Referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled :

The petition of Janette Taylor, of the city of New York, on behalf of herself and the other representatives of John Paul Jones, formerly a captain in the navy of the United States,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS :

That, as is well known to your honorable body, the said John Paul Jones, holding the commission of the United States, was, in the early stage of the American revolution, in command of an American squadron composed of the *Bon Homme Richard*, Captain Jones ; the *Alliance*, Captain Landais ; the *Pallas*, Captain Cottineau ; the *Stag*, Captain Verage ; and the *Vengeance*, Captain Ricot.

That said squadron was fitted out in the kingdom of France, with the concurrence of the public authorities there, *at the expense* of the crown of France, but subject to the control of the then American minister, Benjamin Franklin ; and was in fact, and so considered to be to all intents and purposes, an American squadron, and sailed under the American *flag* and *laws*.

That, as is well known to your honorable body, the said John Paul Jones, with the vessels under his command, not only performed many brilliant achievements, took a number of prisoners sufficient to give freedom to *all* the American citizens then languishing for it in British dungeons, and by his personal skill and daring stamped upon the American navy at its very creation that chivalric character which it has since so well sustained, but was also of immense service to the United States in crippling the commerce of the enemy, exposing her weakness in her own coasts, lessening the danger of transporting the munitions of war, and in gaining for his country the sympathy and admiration of the continental Governments, which eventuated in powerful and effectual alliances.

That said squadron, while so under the command of the said John Paul Jones, made many valuable prizes of war, which were sent into different

ports, and among others the letter of marque *Betsey*, the letter of marque *Union*, and the brigantine *Charming Polly*, all British vessels, and estimated, with their cargoes, at the time to be worth *fifty thousand pounds sterling*.

That said vessels were sent into Bergen, in Norway, for adjudication by the particular orders of Captain Peter Landais, given to the prize masters without the permission or knowledge of the said John Paul Jones; the vessels separated from the squadron in the night.

That they were by the contrivance of the said Captain Landais represented as the prizes of the Alliance, contrary to the fact and in violation of the rights of his brother officers; they were the prizes of the squadron acting in concert; and the *Union*, a ship of more value than the other two prizes together, struck her colors under the guns of the *Bon Homme Richard*. (See Appendix, No. 1.)

That said vessels were fair and lawful prizes, not taken on the coast of Denmark, but far distant on the high seas, and were sent into Bergen as into a port truly neutral.

That, while said vessels were lying at Bergen in charge of their commanders, and subject to the control of the authority representing the United States, the King of Denmark caused the same to be seized and delivered up to the English consul, and thereby deprived their captors of all the benefits of their hard and perilous earnings, to which by the laws of nations they were entitled.

Your petitioner further represents that the Government of the United States, in fulfilment of its obligation to protect and enforce the rights of its citizens, has at different times, by its ministers, demanded from the King of Denmark compensation for the injury; and that various offers have been made by the King of Denmark, but rejected on the ground of their inadequacy.

That Congress, on the 25th of October, 1787, passed a resolution authorizing Mr. Jefferson, their minister plenipotentiary at the court of France, to make proper representations to his Danish majesty on the subject of the claim against him, and to despatch the aforesaid John Paul Jones as agent; that the said John Paul Jones arrived at Copenhagen in March, 1788, (having been prevented by illness from proceeding there sooner,) where, after several conferences with Count de Bernstorff, he was informed by that nobleman, in writing, on the 4th of April, 1788, that his (the said John Paul Jones's) want of plenipotentiary powers from Congress to terminate ultimately the business, had determined him (Count Bernstorff) to authorize the Baron de Blome to negotiate and settle the same with Mr. Jefferson at Paris; but, as is well known to your honorable body, no settlement was ever made either with Mr. Jefferson or with any other person, until at length, owing to the death of the said John Paul Jones, the matter, as your petitioner believes, has ceased to be a subject of negotiation; whereby the representatives of the said John Paul Jones have been most unjustly deprived of the share and interest of the said John Paul Jones in said prizes.

And your petitioner begs leave further to state, that the Government of the United States, impressed with the justice of the case, did, by an act passed March 28th in the year 1806, grant to the said Captain Landais the sum of *four thousand dollars* on account of his claim to prize money in said vessels. That the said Captain Peter Landais claimed *five thousand dollars more*, but, dying soon afterwards, and no heir appearing, the claim was dropped; and, as your petitioner is informed, and believes, other appli-

cations have been made to the same effect ; but with what success your petitioner cannot say. But your petitioner can say, that no compensation was ever made for the share and interest of the said John Paul Jones, either to himself or his representatives ; for although a pension had been offered to the said John Paul Jones by the King of Denmark, it was not offered as a compensation for his loss in the prize ships delivered up to the British, and moreover *no part* of the said pension was ever received by the said John Paul Jones during his life, nor by his representatives after his death. (See Appendix, Nos. 2 and 3.)

That the said Peter Landais was a *broken and disgraced* officer, *dismissed the service* of the United States on the 6th day of January, 1781, by the sentence of a court-martial, and rendered *incapable* of serving in the United States navy for the future.

That the said John Paul Jones, on board the ship Alfred, before Philadelphia, hoisted the flag of freedom with his own hands, the first time it was displayed.

That, on board the Ranger, in Queberon bay, on the 14th of February, 1778, *he claimed and obtained* from Monsieur La Motte Picquet the *first salute* the flag of the infant republic received from a foreign power.

That the said John Paul Jones served the United States *faithfully and well*, as is manifest by the report of the Board of Admiralty of the 28th March, 1781, from which the following is an extract :

“That ever since Captain Jones first became an officer in the navy of these States, he hath shown an unremitting attention in planning and executing enterprises calculated to promote the essential interests of our glorious cause.

“That, in Europe, although in his expedition through the Irish channel in the Ranger he did not fully accomplish his purpose, yet he made the enemy feel that it is in the power of a small squadron, under a brave and enterprising commander, to retaliate the conflagration of our defenceless towns ; and took the Drake, a ship, in number of guns and men, superior to the Ranger, which she was sent out to capture.

“That, by his *reputation and address*, he obtained the command of a squadron under the *flag and laws* of these States, at the *expense* of our generous ally, and therewith captured the Serapis and Scarborough, spreading universal alarm through the island of Great Britain and its dependencies.

“That, in his expedition with that squadron, he made a number of prisoners, *sufficient* to redeem *all* our fellow-citizens in British dungeons ; and established a cartel for their exchange.

“*That he hath made the flag of America respectable among the flags of other nations.*

“That, returning from Europe, he brought with him the esteem of the *greatest and best* friends of America ; and hath received from the illustrious monarch of France that reward of warlike virtue which his subjects obtain by a long series of faithful services or uncommon merit.

“The board are of opinion that the conduct of Captain John Paul Jones merits particular attention and some distinguished mark of approbation from the United States in Congress assembled.

“Signed, by order of the board,

“FRA : LEWIS.

“BOARD OF ADMIRALTY, March 28, 1781.”

And by a vote of thanks given to the said John Paul Jones by the United States in Congress assembled on the 14th of April, 1781; from which the following is an extract:

“*Resolved*, That the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled be given to Captain John Paul Jones, for the zeal, prudence, and intrepidity with which he hath supported the honor of the American flag; for his bold and successful enterprises to redeem from captivity the citizens of these States, who had fallen under the power of the enemy; and, in general, for the good conduct and *eminent services* by which he has added lustre to his character and to the American arms.”

And also by a medal of gold voted to the said John Paul Jones by the *unanimous* voice of Congress, October 16th, 1787.

Your petitioner humbly hopes that your honorable body will consider the representatives of an officer whose conduct has called forth such public and distinguished marks of the approbation of the United States, entitled to a compensation for his loss in the three prize ships—so unjustly, and in violation of the laws of nations, delivered up to the British by the King of Denmark, equal to that granted to his subaltern and disgraced officer, by whose act of insubordination these prizes were sent into Bergen—proportionate to the difference in rank between the commander of a squadron and the captain of a frigate; for there can be no doubt, had John Paul Jones been alive at the time Peter Landais was partially remunerated, that he would have been so likewise.

Among many instances on record of the disinterested attachment of the said John Paul Jones to the United States, your petitioner begs permission to quote one. The United States, wishing to ascertain the object of the expedition of La Peyrouse, directed Mr. Jefferson, then their minister at the court of France, to make private inquiries respecting it; Mr. Jefferson applied to John Paul Jones to proceed from L'Orient to Brest for that purpose, with the assurance that he should be remunerated for his expenses. The following is an extract of a letter on this subject from Mr. Jefferson to Mr. Jay, dated Paris, October 6th, 1785.

“I mentioned to you, in my letter of August 14th, that I had desired Captain John Paul Jones to inquire into the circumstances of Peyrouse's expedition.

“I have now the honor of enclosing you copies of my letter to him and of his answer. He refuses to accept of any indemnification for his expenses, which is an *additional* proof of his *disinterested spirit*, and of his *devotion to the service of America*.” (Jefferson's Posthumous Works, vol. 1, page 335.)

The Appendix, No. 4, being the account of John Paul Jones with the United States, and the letters that accompanied it, to which your petitioner respectfully begs leave to refer your honorable body, sheweth,

That the said John Paul Jones had been *seven years* an officer in the navy of the United States before he received *any pay*.

That during that period, and while he was himself receiving nothing from the United States, the said John Paul Jones had advanced from his private purse for the public service between *fifteen* and *sixteen thousand* dollars, in various sums, some of them from *four* to *five years* standing; for the use of which the said John Paul Jones was allowed neither *interest* nor *commission*.

Your petitioner has been informed that even at that time, (see Appendix,

No. 5,) as well as subsequently, many instances are on record where officers have been allowed interest on their advances, and commissions on disbursements; and if such has been the case under ordinary circumstances, your petitioner humbly conceives that the said John Paul Jones, who made advances for the public service of the United States in the time of their need, will not be counted less worthy of indemnification, at least to the extent of interest on moneys advanced for the public service.

It also appears, by the aforesaid account, that the said John Paul Jones, on the 9th day of December, 1782, received at the Treasury of the United States fourteen hundred pounds, Pennsylvania currency, or 3,734 dollars, for *pay* (without rations or allowances of any kind) from the *7th December, 1775*, to the *26th June, 1782*, a sum amounting to only 720 dollars per annum; the inadequacy of which your honorable body will readily perceive, by contrasting said sum with 4,500 dollars, the annual pay, now in time of peace, allowed to a senior captain in the United States navy, when commanding a squadron abroad, as he did. The whole that the said John Paul Jones received for *five years and a half of active and important services*, was *considerably less* than is now paid to an officer of his rank for *one year*; and even that sum, small as it was, he did not receive until *seven years* after he had entered the service.

Your petitioner has been informed, and believes, that the said 1,400 pounds, Pennsylvania currency, or 3,734 dollars, was all that the said John Paul Jones ever did receive from the United States for his services; the rest was only reimbursement of moneys advanced by him, and that without interest or commission. Your honorable body will perceive that the *interest* stated in the annexed account is only from the *25th July, 1781*, to the *9th December, 1782*, viz. from the day on which the accounts of the said John Paul Jones were allowed by Congress, and referred to the Board of Treasury to take order, until the day on which he received payment.

Although the said John Paul Jones, in his accounts, makes no charge for interest on his advances, it is nevertheless evident, by his letter of the 28th July, 1781, to Thomas M. Kean, Esq., president of Congress, that he considered himself entitled to interest on his advances, as well as to rations; and it further appears, by the same letter, that the said John Paul Jones had not only been obliged to *borrow*, on his personal responsibility, a great portion of the money he had advanced for the public service, but that he had likewise thereby *considerably embarrassed his own pecuniary affairs*.

The following is an extract of the aforesaid letter:

"I have waited on that board [the Board of Treasury] in hopes of receiving cash to the amount of *four hundred pounds*, to pay small debts I owe in this city, and defray the expenses of my journey to Portsmouth, in New Hampshire; but the board has not complied with my demand.

"In my letter to your excellency, dated the 17th of this month, I observed that I had been obliged to *borrow* a considerable part of the cash I had *advanced* for the public service; and the accounts from No. 1 to 6, inclusive, being cash I have advanced, (a considerable part whereof from *four to five years ago*.) I hope Congress will be pleased to order that the said accounts, from No. 1 to 6 inclusive, be paid either in cash or bills of exchange on Europe, to enable me to pay the *debts* I have contracted in France. I have made *no charge* for interest on the advances I have made, but submit that matter to Congress, to allow it or not, as they think fit."

"N. B.—The balance due on the within mentioned accounts, exclusive

of interest, &c., is £5,413 18s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and the rations ought to be also allowed in proportion to equal rank and command in the army, deducting only the time occupied in the journey, as expressed in the detail of charges." (See Appendix, Nos. 6 and 7.)

In a letter written upwards of *six years subsequent* to the date of the above, from the said John Paul Jones to the honorable Mr. Smith, chairman of the committee of Congress on a report of the Treasury, he states that he had been allowed neither interest nor commission on his advances or expenditures; and because he had been allowed some travelling expenses, he was refused rations for either himself or his servants from the beginning of the service.

The following is an extract of that letter, which is dated October 4, 1787:

"I paid off at Boston *two ships*, out of *my own purse*, at the time when Congress withdrew from Philadelphia to Baltimore. I made several journeys by land, (by orders received,) *at my own expense*. And as there were as yet no pursers employed where I commanded, I kept and settled all the stop accounts, till I received the invitation of the King of France to remain for a time in Europe.

"At the time I was chosen to command the America, (June 26, 1781,) I had received *nothing* from the public for my *services, expenditures, or disbursements*.

"Mr. Morris being appointed superintendent of finance, ordered me to exhibit my accounts. I did so. *No interest was allowed; no commission* on my *expenditures* or *stop accounts*. And (because I was allowed some travelling expenses) the committee reported that *nothing* should be allowed for *my own subsistence*, nor that of my *servants*, from the beginning of the service. If this was *favor*, then *I* was favored.

"When I returned to Philadelphia, (sixteen months afterwards,) after I had finished and launched the America, Mr. Morris paid off the account just mentioned. I understood that he at that time paid the officers in general in the same manner. But *the whole* I received from the United States was *fourteen hundred pounds*, Pennsylvania money, being *for pay* from the year 1775. The rest was only reimbursement, *without interest or commission*. I have met with *great losses* in the service, and frequently expended *my own money* for public purposes, which I *never brought to account*; and I *never* received a *dollar* of gratification." (For this letter, see Appendix, No. 8.)

By the account of the said John Paul Jones with the United States, (Marine Department,) and the certificate of the commissioner of marine, being Nos. 9 and 10 of the Appendix, a balance of \$2,598 42 appears to be due to John Paul Jones by the United States.

Your petitioner believes that said balance is not included in any of the charges made in the account settled at the Treasury on the 9th December, 1782, and that it consists of moneys advanced by John Paul Jones to the crew of the Alliance, in Holland, at the time he was left to the alternative of taking command of the Alliance, (Captain Landais having been superseded,) on board of which ship alone the flag of America was then flying, or of accepting a French commission, and hoisting the flag of France on board the squadron and the prizes. He chose the former, preferring the hazard of being driven out to sea by the Dutch, (if he attempted to remain after the wind became fair,) and captured by the British, to securing his own safety at the expense of the honor of

the American flag. On the 27th December, 1779, the wind serving, he set sail from the Texel, passing along the Flemish banks, getting to windward of the British fleets of observation in the North Sea: next day passing through the straits of Dover, in full view of the British fleet in the Downs. The day following, he ran the Alliance past the Isle of Wight, in view of the fleet at Spithead, and in two days more got safe through the channel; having passed by windward in sight of several large two-decked British cruisers: an escape which has but few parallels in history, forty British ships having been for six weeks stationed to intercept him.

For the fact that John Paul Jones, *up to the day of his death*, considered the United States HIS DEBTOR, your petitioner respectfully refers your honorable body to the tenth item in the schedule of the property of the said John Paul Jones, as stated by him to the honorable Gouverneur Morris, then minister of the United States at the court of France, on the 18th July, 1792, the day in which the said John Paul Jones died. (See Appendix, No. 12.)

Your petitioner respectfully begs leave to remark, that John Paul Jones was not dismissed the service of the United States, neither did he resign his commission, but was, at the time of his death, senior officer in the United States navy; and although he did enter the Russian navy, he did so when the United States were at peace with all the world, and had no use for his services. In compliance with his earnest desire to acquire greater knowledge in his profession, and render himself more extensively useful, Congress, on the 16th October, 1787, addressed a letter to his most Christian majesty, requesting his majesty's permission for the said John Paul Jones to embark in the French fleet of evolution, for that purpose; but a better opportunity of acquiring that knowledge, by means of actual warfare in the Russian service, having offered, he, by the advice of Mr. Jefferson, entered the Russian navy; but he nevertheless reserved his services at the disposal of the United States whenever they saw fit to call for them; for it was a stipulation the said John Paul Jones made with her imperial majesty, on entering her navy, that he was never to be called upon to relinquish his situation of an American citizen and officer, nor to draw his sword against France; against that power which had so essentially supported the United States in their mighty struggle.

Although your honorable body may not consider John Paul Jones entitled to pay from the United States while he was in the service of another power, your petitioner trusts that your honorable body will consider him entitled to pay from the United States from the time he was last paid until he entered the Russian navy, viz. from the 26th June, 1781, until May, 1788.

Your petitioner, in conclusion, respectfully begs leave to state that she has been detained in the United States *seven years*, far from her country and her friends, at *great inconvenience and considerable expense*, waiting on the result of her memorial to your honorable body;

That the said John Paul Jones, at his death, left *ten* co-heirs, of whom your petitioner is one;

That your petitioner is allowed, by the other co-heirs of the said John Paul Jones, *no compensation* for her *time, trouble, or expenses*, while waiting on said result.

Your petitioner therefore humbly prays that your honorable bodies will take under their favorable consideration the claims of the heirs of John Paul Jones, an officer who contributed so essentially to the service of the States during the trying period of the revolutionary struggle, and grant to them,

1. An allowance for his interest in the prizes seized in Norway, in violation of the law of nations, at least equal to the amount already paid his subaltern officer, and in a ratio to his superior rank and his actual interest in the property seized and surrendered.

2. Indemnity for interest upon moneys advanced and disbursed by him for the public service during the revolutionary war, as acknowledged when his account was adjusted; and compensation for rations while in the active service of the States; both of which he considered himself entitled to, and which would, no doubt, have been paid, had the finances of the States been in a better condition.

3. The sum of \$2,598, being moneys advanced by him to the crew of the Alliance.

4. His pay as a captain in the naval service of the States in which he was commissioned, from the 26th June, 1781, to May 1788, when he entered the Russian service.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

JANETTE TAYLOR.

APPENDIX.

No. 1.

NEW YORK, *July 27, 1787.*

GENTLEMEN: I am honored with your letter of yesterday, which I have this moment received, desiring me to inform you to what person the letters, written by the consul of France at Bergen, in Norway, in the years 1779 and 1780, on the subject of our prizes delivered up to the British consul in that port, by virtue of a resolution or an order* of the King of Denmark, were directed?

I am to inform you that those documents are in the state in which I received them from the late minister of the United States, before he left the court of France, to whom, unquestionably, they were addressed by the author.

As to the translation of the resolution of his Danish majesty respecting the delivery of the prizes to the British, I have never seen nor received that paper. I have not thought it of consequence, as the fact is not denied by Denmark.

It was not *my* intention to order the prizes in question to a port of Denmark; but the captain of the Alliance took upon himself to give his particular orders to the prize masters to that effect. And, as this was done in my presence, though without my *knowledge* or *permission*, they separated from the squadron in the night. Thus they were in, Bergen, said to be prizes taken or sent in (which had an equal construction) by the frigate Alliance. The truth is, they were the prizes of the squadron acting in concert, which the King of France had put under the American flag, and under

* The order of his Danish majesty is inserted in Dr. Franklin's memorial, which has been since the date of this letter received from Dr. Franklin.

my command; and the Union, a ship of more value than the other two prizes together, struck her colors under the guns of the Bon Homme Richard, after I had hailed her: I, however, have never had the folly to make a distinction on that account.

I have the honor to be, with great esteem and respect, gentlemen,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

PAUL JONES.

The honorable the BOARD OF TREASURY.

No. 2.

Nous, Chrétien Sept, par la grace de Dieu roi de Dannemarc et de Norvège, &c. &c. &c., faisons sçavoir: Qu'ayant des raisons particulières pour vouloir donner des preuves de notre bienveillance au Chevalier Paul Jones, chef d'escadre de la marine des Etats Unis de l'Amérique, et desirant surtout lui prouver notre estime à cause des justes égards, qu'il a temoigné pour le pavillon Danois pendant qu'il a commandé dans les mers du nord: Nous lui assûrons dès à present, et pour sa vie durant annuellement, la somme de quinze cent ecûs, argent de Dannemarc, à toucher ici à Copenhague sans retenue quelconque.

En foi de quoi, nous lui en avons fait expedier et remettre cette lettre signée de notre main. Fait à notre chateau de Christiansbourg, le 4 Avril, 1788.

CHRISTIAN R.

I, John Aikin, of Dumfries, notary public by royal authority, duly admitted and sworn, do hereby certify and attest, that what is above written is a just and true copy of the grant or letter by Christian the Seventh, King of Denmark, in favor of the above-named Paul Jones, now deceased, having faithfully collated and compared the same with the original at Dumfries, the twelfth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred, in presence of Mark Manderson, seedsman in Dumfries, and Charles McCleish, merchant there, witnesses to the premises specially required, and hereto subscribing with me.

JOHN AIKIN, *Not. Pub.*

MARK MANDERSON, *Witness.*

CHARLES MCCLEISH, *Witness.*

BOROUGH OF DUMFRIES:

By Gabriel Richardson, Esquire, one of the bailies, and acting chief magistrate of the said borough for the time being:

These certify all whom it may concern, that the above-named John Aikin is a notary public, and therefore all due faith ought to be had and given to his attestations as such, accordingly.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the common seal of the said borough to be affixed
[L. s.] at Dumfries, the twelfth day of July, in the year of our Lord 1800.

GABRIEL RICHARDSON.

FRAS. MAKWELL, *Clerk.*

[TRANSLATION.]

We, Christian the Seventh, by the grace of God King of Denmark and of Norway, &c. &c. &c., make known: That having particular reasons for wishing to testify our good will towards the Chevalier Paul Jones, commander-in-chief of a squadron in the service of the United States of America; and desiring, above all, to prove to him our esteem, in consequence of the regard which he has shown for the Danish flag, during the time of his command in the northern seas:

We grant him for the present, and annually during his life, the sum of fifteen hundred crowns, Danish currency, to be paid at Copenhagen, without any retention whatever.

In evidence whereof, we have caused to be written and despatched to him this letter, signed by our hand. Done at our castle of Christiansbourg the 4th of April, 1788.

CHRISTIAN R.

No 3.

Extract of a letter from Messrs. Ryberg & Co. to Sir Robert Herries & Co., dated Copenhagen, April 4, 1797.

Some time ago we had an opportunity to converse with his excellency Count Bernstorff, when we mentioned to him the claims of the heirs of the late Admiral Paul Jones. He informed us that the Danish Government made an offer to the late admiral of an annuity, amounting, we suppose, to about \$1,500. The admiral did not think proper at that time to accept of it, declining it from a motive of delicacy, thinking it inconsistent with his dignity in the Russian navy to receive money from another court than that which he served. We did not enter into more particulars concerning that affair with his excellency, but leave it to your superior judgment, if you should think proper to advise the heirs to renew their application for that purpose.

LONDON, April 13, 1797.

SIR: I send you, annexed, an extract of a letter received yesterday, from my correspondents at Copenhagen, on the subject of the claims of Admiral Paul Jones's heirs on that court, by which it appears that he declined accepting the pension in question, and, therefore, of course, his heirs can lay no claim to it.

I am, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

ROBT. HERRIES.

MR. WILLIAM TAYLOR, *Dumfries.*

No. 4.

Chevalier Paul Jones in account with the United States.

1782, Dec. 9	Dr.		
	To MICHAEL HILLEGAS, <i>Treasurer</i> :		
	For a warrant drawn this day by the superintendent of finance, in his favor, for three hundred and eighty-one gold ducats of Holland, being the amount of his account No. 5, which accrued in Holland, together with interest thereon, as entered blotter page 867 to 870 :		
	Ducats of Holland, 381, at 9s. 4d. sterling, each : as 5s. 4d. is to the dollar, amounting to seven hundred and ninety dollars and twenty ninetieths -		\$790 20
	For a warrant drawn this day by the superintendent of finance, in his favor, for thirteen thousand nine hundred and ninety-one livres Tournois, being the balance of his account Nos. 4 and 6, accrued in France, together with interest thereon, as entered in blotter page 867 to 870 :		
	13,991 livres Tournois, at 5liv. 8so. per dollar, reduced, is equal to two thousand five hundred and ninety dollars and eighty-three ninetieths -		2,590 83
	For a warrant drawn this day by the superintendent of finance, in his favor, for twelve thousand and forty-nine dollars and thirty-three ninetieths, being the balance of his accounts, Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 7, which accrued in America, together with interest thereon from 25th July, 1781, as entered in blotter page 867 to 870 - - -		12,049 33
	TO SUNDRIES.		
	To specie, arising from old emissions, reduced, &c., for three thousand four hundred and nineteen dollars, the specie value of four thousand one hundred and twenty-eight dollars old emissions, that said Jones received, as appears by the foregoing entry, as per account current and certificate of the Comptroller of this day on the state of said Jones's account - - -		3,419 00
	Jonathan Williams, junior, of Nantz, for the following sums paid to said Jones by Jon. Williams :		
	1778, Jan. 5, paid him, livres 2,400		
	17, do. do. 2,400		
	Feb. 6, do. do. 900 5		
	8, do. do. 3,601		
	18, do. do. 720		
	10,021 at 5liv. 8so. prdol.		1,855 71
			<u>\$20,705 27</u>

CR.

BY SUNDRIES.

1782,
Dec. 9

For twenty thousand seven hundred and five dollars and twenty-seven ninetieths, being the amount of principal and interest of his accounts, referred for settlement to a committee of Congress, and approved of by Congress on the 25th July, 1781, in the words following :

"*Resolved*, That the charges of the said John Paul Jones, as exhibited in his accounts, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, be allowed, and that the said report be referred to the Board of Treasury to take order."

Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 7, amounting to	
£5,800 12s. 9d., Penn. currency,	
equal to - - - -	\$15,468 33
Nos. 4 and 6, amounting to 24,012 5-8	
livres Tournois, at 5liv. 8so. per doll.	4,446 64
No. 5, amounting to 381 gold ducats	
of Holland - - - -	790 20

\$20,705 27

The late Board of Treasury not having acted on the said account, the Comptroller of the Treasury, with the approbation of the superintendent of finance, on the 9th instant rendered a statement thereof, which is filed as a voucher for these entries.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

For amount of his accounts Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 7, viz :

No. 1. For sundries paid by him in the years 1776 and 1777, sundry disbursements and seamen's wages for the sloop Providence and the ship Alfred, as per account - £1,316 16 11

No. 2. For moneys advanced the crew of the Ranger - - - 1,842 3 7

No. 3. Amount of sundry disbursements incurred on the Ranger, as per account - - - 897 0 0

No. 7. Amount of his pay from 7th December, 1775, to the 26th June, 1781 - - - 1,400 5 0

Amounting to the sum of £5,456 5 6
Penn: currency, equal in dollars to - \$14,550 05

Cr.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

1782,
Dec. 9.For amount of his foreign expenditures
in France, Nos. 4 and 6, viz:No. 4. For moneys advanced, at Nantz,
to the crew of the Ranger, 3,632 livres,
as per account dated Nantz, Februa-
ry 3, 1778.No. 6. And 19,314 livres, amount of ac-
count entitled sundry disbursements,
and posting charges incurred in France
at different times, under date January,
1778, to June 25, 1780, making 22,946
livres, at 5liv. 8so. per dollar - \$4,249 23No. 5. Amount of expenditures in Hol-
land, for sundry disbursements and
posting charges, incurred under date
Texel, November 29, 1779, 352 gold
ducats of Holland, at 9s. 4d. sterling
per gold ducat, and at 4s. 6d. sterling
for each dollar, are - - - 730 06

\$19,529 34

INTEREST ACCOUNT.

For interest arising on the several sums aforemen-
tioned, and allowed on settlement, to wit:On £4,174 3s., Penn: currency, from the 25th July,
1781, to 9th December, 1782, as per accounts
Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 7, amounting to - \$918 28On livres 12,924 15, from 25th July, 1781,
to 9th December, 1782, 1,066 5-8 livres,
on Nos. 4 and 6 - - - 197 41And on 352 gold ducats, from 25th July,
1781, to 9th Dec. 1782, as per No. 5 60 14

1,175 83

\$20,705 27

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Register's Office, December 15, 1826.

I do hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true copy of the settlement of
the account of Chevalier Paul Jones with the United States, made on the
9th day of December, 1782.

JOSEPH NOURSE,

Register of the Treasury U. States.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
State of New York, city and county of New York, } ss.

I, Ebenezer Jesup, junior, notary public, duly admitted and sworn, residing in the said city of New York, do hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true copy of an account current and certificate signed "Joseph Nourse, Register of the Treasury U. States," thereon written, this day exhibited to me by Miss Janette Taylor, and carefully transcribed and examined.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my [L. s.] seal of office, at the said city of New York, this eleventh day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six.

EBEN. JESUP, Jr., *Notary Public.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Register's Office, December 15, 1826.

SIR: I have the honor to present an official settlement of the account of Chevalier John Paul Jones, made at the Treasury on the 9th December, 1782, under a resolution of Congress of the 23d July, 1781. It appears by this statement, that the chevalier, on the 9th December, 1782, received at the Treasury of the United States the sum of twelve thousand and forty-nine dollars and thirty-three ninetieths, the balance of certain accounts therein specified, with interest thereon from 25th July, 1781.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect,
 Your obedient, humble servant,

JOSEPH NOURSE.

Hon. RICHARD RUSH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
December 16, 1826.

SIR: For reply to your letter of the 11th instant, I have the honor to refer you to the enclosed communication from the Register of the Treasury, covering an official copy of the account of the late Captain John Paul Jones, which contains *all* the information in the possession of this department touching the inquiry of Miss Taylor.

I have the honor to remain, with the highest respect,
 Your most obedient servant,

RICHARD RUSH.

The Hon. the SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
December 22, 1826.

MADAM: Upon the receipt of your letter of the 12th of October last, application was immediately made to the Secretary of the Treasury for any information in possession of that department which would enable me to

reply to your inquiries. I have received a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, enclosing an official statement of the Register respecting the accounts of the late Captain John Paul Jones; both of which I now transmit, and it will be gratifying if the information they contain shall prove useful to you.

I am, very respectfully, &c.

SAM'L L. SOUTHARD.

Miss JANETTE TAYLOR,

At Mrs. Capt. Johnstone's, High-street, Dumfries, Scotland.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
State of New York, city and county of New York, } ss.

I, Ebenezer Jesup, jr., notary public, duly admitted and sworn, residing in the said city of New York, do hereby certify, that the foregoing are true copies of three letters signed, respectively, "Joseph Nourse," "Richard Rush," and "Sam'l L. Southard," exhibited to me and carefully transcribed and examined.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office, at the said city of New York, this eleventh day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six.

EBEN. JESUP, jr.,
Notary Public.

Abstracts from the journals of Congress.

February 24, 1780. Each State is allowed interest, at six per cent. per annum, for supplies of articles of provisions for the army.

April 15. Interest allowed to Col. Atlee on pay and rations furnished and due to himself when a prisoner.

June 28. Interest allowed to Ottis & Henly, of Boston, on clothing.

April 20, 1781. Hazen's regiment to receive certificates for the sums due them, payable 1st January, 1784, with interest.

Balance due Col. Hazen, including principal and interest to May 1st, 1781, bear interest from that day.

June 3. One year's interest on the balances due on 1st January, 1781, to the Canadian officers and soldiers, be included in their certificates.

September 12. Balance due to William Lee, to be paid by the superintendent of finance, with interest from this day.

February 27, 1783. Unsettled accounts to be settled at the Board of Treasury; balances due before the 1st of January, 1782, to be placed on interest.

March 18, 1784. That an interest of six per cent. per annum, from the 1st of May, 1777, be allowed to Mr. Cazeau on the above advance, and on the amount of articles so purchased and collected.

June 3, 1784. Interest for supplies by the States allowed.

That an interest of six per cent. per annum be allowed to all creditors of the United States for supplies furnished, or services done, from the time that the payment became due.

No. 6.

PHILADELPHIA, July 28, 1781.

SIR: In consequence of the act of the United States in Congress assembled, of the 25th of this month, approving of my accounts, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, and referring them to the Board of Treasury, to take order, I have waited on that board, in hopes of receiving cash to the amount of *four hundred pounds*, to pay *small debts* I owe in this city, and defray the expenses of my journey to Portsmouth, in New Hampshire; but the board has not complied with my demand.

In my letter to your excellency, dated the 17th of this month, I observed that I had been obliged to *borrow* a considerable part of the cash I had *advanced* for the public service; and the accounts, from No. 1 to 6, inclusive, being cash I have advanced, (a considerable part whereof from *four* to *five* years ago,) I hope Congress will be pleased to order that the said accounts, from 1 to 6, inclusive, be paid either in cash, or bills of exchange on Europe, to enable me to pay the *debts* I have contracted in France.

I have made no charge for interest on the advances I have made, but submit that matter to Congress, to allow it or not, as they think fit.

I pray the honorable House to direct that I may be furnished immediately with cash, to the amount of four hundred pounds, to enable me to proceed to New Hampshire, to testify, by my conduct, the very grateful sense I have of the high honor Congress have conferred on me by my late appointment.*

It is necessity alone that compels me to make this application, having no funds of my own, at this time, in a situation to answer my wants, and having failed in attempts to borrow.

I am, with profound respect, sir,

Your excellency's most obedient and

Most humble servant,

The Chev. PAUL JONES.

N. B. The balance due on the within mentioned account, exclusive of interest, &c., is £5,413 18s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and the rations ought to be also allowed in proportion to equal rank and command in the army, deducting only the time occupied in the journey, as expressed in the detail of charges. (For said account, see Appendix No. 7.)

* He had been elected by Congress, unanimously, June 26, 1781, to command the *America*, a 74 gun ship then on the stocks at Portsmouth, New Hampshire. After superintending her construction for sixteen months, and launching her, she was taken from him; Congress having presented their solitary ship of the line to the King of France, to replace the *Magnifique*, a French ship lost by accident in Boston harbor.

The honorable the Board of Admiralty of the United States of America, in account current with the Chevalier Paul Jones.

	DR.	Dollars.	Rate by depreciation.	£ s. d.
1777, Oct.	To balance of account transmitted to the Eastern Navy Board, as per account No. 1 - - -	-	-	1,316 16 10 $\frac{3}{4}$
1777, Nov. 1	To account of advance to the crew of Ranger, as a bounty, at Portsmouth, per account No. 2 - -	5,900	equal to 4,885 $\frac{7}{8}$ $\frac{0}{8}$	1,842 3 7
	To amount of sundry disbursements incurred on the Ranger, as per account No. 3 - - -	2,891 $\frac{1}{3}$	do. 2,392 $\frac{7}{8}$	897 0 0
1778, Feb. 3	To amount of advance made to the Ranger's crew at Nantz, per account No. 4 - - -	726 $\frac{2}{5}$	at 7s. 6d.	272 8 0
1779, Nov. 29	To amount of sundry expenses and disbursements incurred in Holland, 352 ducats, at 9s. 6d. sterling per ducat, as per account No. 5 - - -	720 $\frac{8}{9}$	at 7s. 6d.	270 6 8
1780, June 25	To amount of sundry disbursements and expenses incurred in France, from January, 1778, to this date, 19,314 livres, at 5 livres per dollar, as per account No. 6 - -	3,862 $\frac{4}{5}$	at 7s. 6d.	1,448 11 0
1781, June 26	To my pay from the 7th December, 1775, to this day, as per account No. 7 - - -	-	at 7s. 6d.	1,400 5 0
	Pennsylvania currency -	-	-	£7,447 11 1 $\frac{3}{4}$
1781, June 26	To balance, as per contra - - -	-	-	£5,413 18 7 $\frac{3}{4}$
	To rations from the 7th of December, 1775, to this date, for myself and servant, having commanded the squadron in Europe - - -	-	-	-
	Due the Chev. Paid. - - -	-	-	-

ACCOUNT—Continued.

CR.		Dollars.	Rates of depreciation.	£	s.	d.
1777, Nov. 1	By cash received from John Langdon, Esq., while fitting the Ranger at Portsmouth - - -	4,128	eq'l to 3,419, at 7s. 6d.	1,282	2	6
1778, Feb. 3	By cash received from Jonathan Williams, Esq., at Nantz, 10,020 livres at 5 per dollar - - -	2,004	at 7s. 6d.	751	10	0
1781, June 26	By balance - - -	-	-	5,413	18	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Pennsylvania currency - - -		-	-	£7,447	11	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
(Errors excepted.)						

PHILADELPHIA, June 26, 1781.

The Chev. PAUL JONES.

I certify that the above is a true copy of an original account filed in this office.

On behalf of BEN. WALKER, Esq., Com'r.

DOYLE SWEENEY, Clerk.

OFFICE FOR MARINE ACCOUNTS,
New York, November 10, 1787.

No. 8.

NEW YORK, October 4, 1787.

SIR: The small space of time that can be allowed me to answer the report of the Board of Treasury (confided to me yesterday) of the 28th ult., on a part of my letter of the 18th of July last, to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, will oblige me to be as concise as possible in my observations on that long performance; which I need not, I believe, follow throughout.

The settlement I made with the court of France had first *Dr. Franklin's*, and afterwards *Mr. Jefferson's approbation*, in every stage and article of the business; and I presume it will be found (at least as far as it has depended on me) to merit that of the United States. The Board of Treasury have been pleased to treat me in their report as a mere agent, though employed in that delicate national concern. In France I was received and treated by the King and his ministers as a general officer and a special minister from Congress. And after it was known in America that Mr. Barclay could not effect the business I undertook, I am certain that no man but myself would have engaged in it *at his own expense*. The credit with which I am honored as an officer in the public opinion of Europe, and the personal intimacy I have with many great characters at Paris, with my exclusive knowledge of all circumstances relative to the business, insured me a success which no other man could have obtained. If it were necessary, I could in that respect recur to the testimony of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as well as that of Dr. Franklin, Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Barclay, and many other persons of the most respectable character, who were present at Paris.

My situation subjected me to considerable expense. I went to the court much oftener, and mixed with the great much more frequently, than our minister plenipotentiary; yet the gentlemen in that station consider their salary (two thousand pounds sterling) as scarcely adequate to their expenses. I set it down as an undeniable fact, that the captors would have got *nothing*, if I had not interfered in their behalf; and I am convinced that there is not one of the crew of the Bon Homme Richard who will not think himself greatly favored by being charged with only *a part* of my expenses, and that I have made an entire sacrifice of the remainder, and already devoted *four years of my time* to prove how much I have *their interest* at heart. (1)

I did not "*influence*" the officers who signed the concordat. It was, on the contrary, imposed upon me by the intrigues of Mr. Le Ruy De Chaumont, who pretended to have unlimited powers, and that he could even supersede me in the command of the squadron. I had been ordered in writing by Dr. Franklin to send my prizes to Mr. Chaumont's address, and the concordat (which I did not sign till the day before the squadron sailed) was consistent with that order. I complained afterwards of that imposition to the Minister of Marine; all which may be seen by my papers and letters lodged in the Secretary's office.

As to the share allotted to me as captain of the Bon Homme Richard, I am of opinion that it is justly my due. There is a great difference between the charge and requisite qualifications of a captain of the line, and the commander of a tender; and it would be unjust for them to share equally. If, however, I have been in some degree favored in that respect, (which I by no means admit,) it is clearly at the exclusive expense of the captains of the Pallas, Cerf, and Vengeance. For the man who was captain of the Alli-

ance, if allowed two-twentieths of the mass allotted that frigate, would have considerably more than a full share, supposing it were taken on the aggregate of the common mass. And the share allotted me by the court of France can affect no other person who can have claims on this country.

The board seem very zealous for the interests of that broken and disgraced officer. I shall say nothing in opposition to his interests, but I am possessed of *ample testimony*, that if he had been tried on my accusation (instead of being broken and disgraced for bringing away the Alliance from France, after his being suspended by Dr. Franklin) the judgment of the court-martial would have been of a more grave and serious nature—(a glaring proof, among many others, that we had no system for the government of our navy; and that we need not at this day be so very tenacious of its vaunted ordinances; especially in a delicate case between two nations, where they cannot in all respects be applied to the letter.) He was punished for a crime that he was led to commit by the instigation and advice of men who had no right to meddle, and who have not been called to account for their interposition! Without them, he never could have stirred up the crew to revolt; and that he had no such intention is evident, as he applied for a passage in the merchant ship Luzerne, then at L'Orient, bound for Philadelphia. His advisers inflamed the minds of the crew of the Alliance, by declaring that the force I commanded was nothing but an armament of privateers! They now say, that the whole force I commanded (the Alliance excepted) belonged to his most Christian majesty.

It is a mistake in the board to blame the American minister for putting the Alliance under my orders. He was the sole judge, in Europe, of the propriety of that measure; which (not adopted at my request) was afterwards *fully approved* by the *admiralty*, under the *authority of Congress*. It seems without just foundation that the board attribute the subsequent loss of the public military stores and clothing to the detention of the Alliance in Europe. I may be allowed to give my opinion on that important matter as well as the board. If the revolt in the Alliance had been prevented, I think our minister would not have chartered the ship Marquis de Lafayette. I say this, because the Ariel (*that I had borrowed from the King for the purpose*) would have been entirely laden with that public property. And the Alliance, having much room between decks, would have taken in a considerable part of the public clothing. This embarkation would have been effected in a week after my return to L'Orient from court, and would have been no additional expense to the United States. A small vessel would then have been sufficient to carry the remaining stores. Who, therefore, is to be blamed for the loss of the ship Marquis de Lafayette?

The Board of Treasury, in their report, calculate the equipments and support of squadrons at a cheap rate! The armament I commanded in Europe *cost the King of France*, as I have heard, *three millions of livres*—instead of five hundred thousand, the sum stated by the board. His majesty was at the *expense of supporting the Alliance with stores and provisions*, and NO PART of the expense of the squadron has been charged to the United States.

Whatever advantages resulted to France by the great diversion I made in favor of the grand combined fleet, &c., it is equally certain that my situation and conduct in Holland, and the circumstance of the fort that was put into my hands and garrisoned by my people on the Texel, stand the first articles in the British declaration of war against that republic. And from this ensued,

in a great measure, the capture of Lord Cornwallis, and our independence; for, without the Dutch war, England would have had a superior fleet on our coast.

But such distinctions ought to be out of the question. We were fighting a *common cause*, and we had a generous ally.

The honor resulting from the squadron was wholly ours. I took at that time between *five and six hundred prisoners*; a number *more than sufficient* (with two hundred before taken with the Drake and carried into Brest; by which means we extorted a cartel from England) to redeem *all* our unfortunate fellow-citizens from British dungeons—though confined there as “*traitors, pirates, and felons*.” And that they were not all redeemed, was no fault of mine. Sir Richard Pearson signed a convention with me on that subject at the Texel, in behalf of the British Government. Nor can the Government of France be blamed; an equal number of English prisoners being offered in France to exchange for the Americans in England. It is only to be lamented that an infallible arrangement had not been made for that purpose, with the British Government, by our minister, previous to the order I received to deliver the prisoners in my hand to the French ambassador in Holland.

It would seem as if the board had not perused all the documents I transmitted of my transactions in France. Else how could they have stated that I suffered the captors, either Americans or French, to be charged with the expense of the maintenance of the prisoners in Holland? The original papers are in my hands, and *prove the contrary*.

The proposition of the Board of Treasury that I should give new securities for the business I am to transact in Denmark, cannot be complied with. (2) The securities I gave with my own are men of property, and their known honor and honesty set their characters above any attack. They have both of them been faithful and able servants of the American cause.

My commission authorizes me to finish the negotiation I have begun with the court of Denmark. When it is finished, I shall pay the money recovered belonging to the citizens and subjects of America into the continental Treasury; and that belonging to the subjects of France, as I may be directed by the concerned, or the Government to which they belong. But it would be unjust, as well as absurd, for me to pay the property of French subjects into the Treasury of the United States. I am answerable for it to the Government of France, and, in consequence, I go to Denmark supported by the French court.

The two prize ships restored to the English by the court of Denmark were “*authorized to war against these States*,” *the whole is therefore vested in the captors*. So the claim set up by the Board of Treasury for one-half, “*or twenty thousand pounds sterling money of England*,” becomes “the baseless fabric of a vision.”

Mr. Jefferson having given me as his opinion, that, “according to the instructions of Congress, any sum, however small, must be accepted, which shall be offered by the court of Denmark,” was my only reason for asking the special orders of Congress for my government in the settlement I am to make. If Congress should think fit to write a letter to his Danish majesty, it would doubtless have a tendency to dispose him to make a compensation.

In dividing the prize money of a *combined* force, such as that I commanded, (the original rolls being lost in the bureau,) it was found *just* as well as *indispensable* to fix in the first place the proportion accruing to each

ship; and the respective number of men and weight of artillery is unquestionably the only just rule of proportion that can be adopted. If this was unfavorable to any part of the squadron, the crews of the smaller vessels, being *all* French subjects, must have been the sufferers. I conversed with both officers and men after they were paid, and I found them, to all appearance, satisfied with the division.

The Minister of Marine had a right to subdivide the prize money accruing to his majesty's subjects by the laws of the flag of France. The King had been at *the whole expense*. And I believe Congress would not have applauded my presumption, had I attempted to explain to him his majesty's ordinances on that subject. I believe those ordinances were made the rule in the subdivision, except with respect to the commanders of the ships; they received two-twentieths of the mass accruing to their ships or vessels, respectively. No reasonable objection can be made to any part of the subdivision, unless it be the share allotted to M. de Chamillard, which being fixed at L'Orient instead of Versailles, I could not get it altered. If any thing is obtained from Denmark, I shall then try to set it right. He served with me as captain of marines, (or volunteers,) but his share was determined by his grade in the French service, being that of lieutenant colonel. As to the subdivision stated on the roll of the American part of the crew of the *Bon Homme Richard*, it was done at my request, merely to demonstrate that no preference was shown to the French part of that crew, called volunteers (or marines.)

The board need not have undertaken to defend the Commissioner of Marine's accounts, as it was not my intention to say any thing that could offend that gentleman. I however repeat, (which I told himself,) that his report alluded to in my letter to the board of the 21st of August last, is partial; because it is grounded only on an act of Congress and my bond, instead of comprehending (as it ought to have done in justice) the whole of my transactions in the settlements made with the court of France, and afterwards with Mr. Jefferson. The commissioner told me "he was *directed so to act* by the Board of Treasury." "His report," he said, "*was law* ; but if he had been allowed to give his opinion, it would have been different."

The settlement I made with Mr. Jefferson had his entire approbation. I was not bound to pay the prize money into his hands, *nor to part with it without obtaining at the same time a final settlement*. But I was persuaded, (and I am so still,) that if I had retained the money obtained from France, until after my negotiation with the court of Denmark should be ended, the ministers of Congress, being *destitute of funds*, must have been under the necessity of leaving Europe.

I did not expect that the Board of Treasury would have reverted to an old account settled up to the 26th of June, 1781, when I was elected to command the America. That account is utterly unconnected with the subject referred to the board by Congress. However, as they have drawn arguments from it to operate against me, I shall take the liberty to mention some facts, to show that those arguments are without just foundation.

I paid off at Boston two ships, *out of my own purse*, at the time when Congress withdrew from Philadelphia to Baltimore. I made several journeys by land, (by orders received,) *at my own expense* ; and as there were as yet no pursers employed where I commanded, I kept and settled all the slop accounts, until I received the invitation of the King of France to re-

main for a time in Europe. At the time I was chosen to command the America, I had received *nothing* from the public for my *services, expenditures, or disbursements*. Mr. Morris being appointed superintendent of finance, ordered me to exhibit my accounts. I did so. *No interest was allowed; no commission on my expenditures, or stop accounts; and (because I was allowed some travelling expenses) the committee reported that nothing should be allowed for my own subsistence, nor that of my servants, from the beginning of the service. If this was favor, then I was favored.*

When I returned to Philadelphia, after I had finished and launched the America, Mr. Morris paid off the account just mentioned. I understood that he at that time paid the officers in general in the same manner; but the whole I received from the United States was fourteen hundred pounds, Pennsylvania money, being *for pay* from the year 1775. The rest was only reimbursement, *without interest or commissions*. I have met with *great losses* in the service, and frequently expended *my own money* for public purposes, that I *never* brought to account; and I *never* received a *dollar* of gratification.

I submit to the inspection of the honorable committee sundry documents that will serve to elucidate some parts of this letter, which I request may be restored to me, and that I may be permitted to take a copy of this letter, as the time allowed me does not permit to copy it before it is presented.

With great respect, I am, sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

PAUL JONES.

The Hon. Mr. SMITH,

Chairman of the Committee of Congress,

on a report of the Treasury.

Copy of a letter filed in the office of the Secretary of Congress, compared and examined by Roger Alden, Dep. Sec'y.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
State, city, and county of New York, } ss.

I, Ebenezer Jesup, junior, notary public, duly commissioned and sworn, residing in the said city of New York, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a letter, certified to be a "copy of a letter filed in the office of the Secretary of Congress, compared and examined by Roger Alden, Dep. Sec'y;" with the original certificate, signed "Roger Alden, Dep. Sec'y.," thereon written—this day exhibited to me by Miss Janette Taylor, and carefully transcribed and examined.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office, at the city of New York aforesaid, this eleventh day of [L. s.] November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six.

EBENEZER JESUP, jr.,
Notary Public.

NOTES.—(1) This letter refers to a claim for the amount of his ordinary expenses, while residing upwards of four years in France, attending on the recovery of the prize money due to his squadron in that kingdom. Mons. Le Ruy de Chaumont, in whose hands the greatest part of the prize

money had been placed, had become insolvent. He made *no charge* for his *time and trouble*.

(2) Previous to his leaving America, he had lodged in the hands of the superintendent of finance, for the fulfilment of the trust reposed in him, a bond to the amount of *two hundred thousand* dollars, himself and the Hon. James Wilson and John Ross, Esqrs. as his securities.

Dr. *The United States in account current (Marine Department) with Capt. J. P. Jones.* Cr.

	Dollars. 90ths.		Dollars. 90ths.
To amount of cash advanced the crew of the Alliance in Europe, per roll, £2,150 19s. 4d. lawful money, equal to - - -	7,169 80	By Capt. Jones's bill on Doctor Franklin, for 24,000 livres paid Ferdinand Grand, banker at Paris, at 5 liv. 5 sous per dollar, is - - -	4,571 38
		By balance due on this statement - - -	2,598 42
Balance brought down - - -	2,598 42		7,169 80

The amount of the above charge is taken from the Alliance's roll, so much being charged to the men as advanced them in Europe. By whom those moneys were advanced does not appear from any document in this office. Capt. Jones states that he advanced moneys in Holland to the men, and that the whole proceeds of the bill drawn for 24,000 livres was delivered to Mr. Blodget to distribute; and supposes the above charge to be the amount of both sums.

BEN. WALKER.

No. 10.

OFFICE OF ACCOUNTS,
Marine Department, August 14, 1787.

Certified, that it appears by the pay-roll of the frigate *Alliance*, filed in this office, that there was advanced to the crew, whilst in Europe, the sum of seven thousand one hundred and sixty-nine dollars and eighty nine-tieths on account of their wages.

BEN. WALKER, *Commissioner.*

No. 11.

PHILADELPHIA, *November 4, 1783.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that my friends the honorable James Wilson and John Ross, Esqs., have lent me their names as securities for my fulfilment of the trust reposed in me by the act of Congress of the 1st instant. As the officers of the Treasury require some explanation from Congress before they think themselves authorized to give credit for the travelling expenses of sea officers, you would oblige me if, in the mean time, you could conveniently grant a warrant in my favor for six hundred and sixteen dollars and sixty ninetieths, *on account*; that sum being the amount of the articles in my account, to which the Treasury has no objection.

I am, with great respect, sir,

Your most humble servant,

JOHN PAUL JONES.

The honorable ROBERT MORRIS, Esq.

Minister of Marine, &c.

The United States of North America

1792,

To Captain John Paul Jones,

Dr.

Dec. 24,	To horses and carriage to transport myself, servant, and baggage from Philadelphia to Boston, in order to embark on board the French fleet with the Marquis de Vandreuil	\$125
	Expenses on the road, being impeded by the snow	- 130
	Pay as captain in the navy from the 7th December to the 7th June	- 360
	Subsistence 26 weeks, at \$5 $\frac{2}{3}$	- 148 $\frac{2}{3}$
	Paid my passage from Cape François to Philadelphia	- 80
		<u>\843\frac{2}{3}$</u>

Extract of a letter, filed in the office of the Secretary of Congress, from John Paul Jones to Arthur Lee, Esq., dated Brest, November 21, 1778.

"If Mr. Lee will recur to my letter to him, dated on board the *Ranger*, the 26th February last, he will find no reason to charge me with want of due respect.

"The hand-bill that was enclosed, by which I made myself answerable to the people who entered to serve under my command *for the regular payment of wages*, having been approved of by the Marine Committee, as is certified to me under the hand of their secretary, the public faith was thereby pledged to put it in my power, else I should have found other means to fulfil that engagement. And this appears to have been Mr. Lee's opinion, when he wrote with his own hand a letter of credit in my favor at Passy, the 10th day of January last, which I have now on the table before me.

"The handful under my command had been led through many dangers of storms and enemies, and, though in want of clothing or money, were returned with some credit to Brest, when I ventured, on the 16th of May, to sign my first draft on the public funds, *for their relief*, agreeably to my letter of advice; yet my signature was *dishonored*. Dr. Franklin nor Mr. Adams had been acquainted with my engagement to the crew, but Mr. Lee, who had been better informed, concurred to dishonor my draft, and left me with *two hundred prisoners of war*, a number of *sick and wounded*, an *almost naked crew*, and a ship, after a *severe engagement*, in *want of stores and provisions*, from the 9th of May until the 13th of June, destitute of any public support. Yet, in that time, I found means *to cure my wounded—to guard my prisoners—to feed my people—and to refit the continental ship*.

"The dishonor that had been done me was publicly known through the French fleet, and every where; yet, though I was the first who had appeared at Brest, and claimed from France the honors due to the American flag, I made no public complaints; I only expressed my concern by letter to the commissioners, at the disgraceful wound which the public credit had suffered at Brest, through my side; and I now beg leave to ask Mr. Lee how I had deserved such treatment?"

The honorable Marine Committee of the United States of America,
To John Paul Jones,

Dr.

For sundry disbursements and posting charges, incurred in Holland, at different times, as follows, viz:

1779. October.	To personal expenses and posting from the Texel to Amsterdam, to arrange with Mrs. Desneuville, respecting the equipment of the squadron under my command, including my expenses and posting back to the Texel, including also personal expenses and posting from Amsterdam to and from the Hague, at the desire of the Duc de la Vanguyon, with my expenses at the Hague	- 156 ducats.
	To cash paid John Jackson, of Hull, as smart money, besides giving him a certificate by which he is to receive half pay as pilot during his life, from Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at Paris,	

for his gallant behavior and the loss of his arm, in the action with the Serapis, and for his having proved a faithful pilot on the east coast of England 100 ducats.

November 29. To personal expenses and posting from the Texel to and from Amsterdam, to meet the Duc de la Vanguyon, at his desire, respecting final measure, at the Texel, including my expenses at Amsterdam - - - 96

352 ducats

at 9s. 6d. sterling, and to dollars at 4s. 6d. sterling.

TEXEL, November 29, 1779.

JNO. P. JONES.

No. 12.

Schedule of the property of Admiral John Paul Jones, as stated by him to me, this 18th of July, 1792.

1st. Bank stock in the Bank of North America, at Philadelphia—six thousand dollars, with sundry dividends.

2d. Loan office certificates, left with my friend John Ross, of Philadelphia, for two thousand dollars, at par, with great arrearages of interest, being for ten or twelve years.

3d. Such balance as may be in the hands of my said friend, John Ross, belonging to me, and sundry effects left in his care.

4th. My lands in the State of Vermont.

5th. Shares in the Ohio Company.

6th. Shares in the Indiana Company.

7th. About £1,800 sterling, due to me from Edward Bancroft, unless paid by him to Sir Robert Herries, and is then in his hands.

8th. Upwards of four years of my pension due from Denmark, to be asked from the Count de Bernstorff.

9th. Arrearages of my pay from the Empress of Russia, and all my prize money.

10th. The balance due to me by the United States of America, and sundry claims in Europe, which will appear from my papers.

This is taken from his mouth.

GOVERNEUR MORRIS.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
State of New York, city and county of New York, } ss.

David B. Ogden, of the city and county aforesaid, counsellor at law, aged sixty-one years and upwards, being duly sworn, doth depose and say: That he was for many years well acquainted with Gouverneur Morris, late of the county of Westchester, in the State of New York aforesaid, now deceased; that deponent has often seen him write, and is perfectly familiar with his hand-writing; and deponent saith that the annexed schedule, and the words "Gouverneur Morris" thereto subscribed, are in the proper hand-writing of the said Gouverneur Morris. And further saith nothing.

DAVID B. OGDEN.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
State, city, and county of New York, } ss.

Be it remembered, that, on this nineteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, before me, Ebenezer Jesup, jr., notary public, duly commissioned and sworn, residing in the said city, came David B. Ogden, to me well known to be the same person described in, and who signed, the foregoing affidavit; and the said David B. Ogden, being by me duly sworn, made solemn oath that the foregoing affidavit, by him subscribed, is true.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office, at
 [L. s.] the city and county of New York aforesaid, the day and year
 above written.

EBENEZER JESUP, Jr.
Notary Public.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
State, city, and county of New York, } ss.

I, Ebenezer Jesup, jr., of the city, county, and State aforesaid, notary public, duly commissioned and sworn, do hereby certify that the within are true copies of a schedule, signed "Gouverneur Morris," and an affidavit, signed "David B. Ogden," and notarial certificate or jurat, signed by myself, annexed to the said schedule, carefully transcribed, exhibited to me this day, and, by request of Miss Janette Taylor, by me carefully examined and compared.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and affixed my seal of office, at the city of New York aforesaid, this nineteenth day
 [L. s.] of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six.

EBENEZER JESUP, Jr.
Notary Public.